

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence for Application No. 10/627,589 is being electronically transmitted to Technology Center 3738, via EFS-WEB, on June 5, 2006.

/David H. Brinkman/ 6/5/06  
David H. Brinkman, Reg. No. 40,532 Date

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*please  
enter  
JW  
8-1-06*

Applicant: Stephen D. Kuslich et al.  
Serial Number: 10/627,589  
Filed: July 25, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 3738  
Confirmation No.: 2967  
Examiner: Willse, David H.  
Title: **LAPAROSCOPIC SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL METHOD**  
Attorney Ref.: ZMS-IF15US6

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

June 5, 2006

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AFTER FINAL AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action mailed on April 5, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.